

**Claims**

1. A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbons, the method comprising mixing the hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous solution.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene.
3. A method according to claim 2, in which the kerosene comprises a low odour kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C.
4. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.
5. A method according to claim 4, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.
6. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the polymer has a molecular weight in the range  $1.4$  to  $2.0 \times 10^6$ .
7. A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil.
8. A composition according to claim 7, in which the fuel oil comprises kerosene.
9. A composition according to claim 8, in which the kerosene comprise commercial kerosene.
10. A composition according to any of claims 7 to 9, in which the polyolefin polymer a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.
11. A composition according to claim 10, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.
12. A composition according to any of claim 7 to 11, in which the polymer has a molecular weight in the range  $1.4$  to  $2.0 \times 10^6$ .
13. A composition according to any of claims 7 to 12 for use as a lamp oil.
14. A composition according to any of claim 7 to 12 for use as a barbecue lighting fuel.